

October 18, 2002

TALON



EOD and VRS destroy dangerous munitions for future safety

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TALON

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A friendly reminder from your Eagle Base Post Office

Although Christmas is still two months away, the Eagle Base Post Office wants to ensure your packages arrive at their destinations on time. To do so, they ask that you mail your packages by the following cutoff dates:

November 20

Space Available Mail (SAM), which is the most inexpensive way to send packages home. Current average for Space Available is two and six weeks.

December 11

First Class and Priority Mail. Current average for packages is seven and ten days for first class and priority mail.

The post office expects delivery times to be longer as holiday mailing increases in volume.

Word on the street...

"PTs, Old or New?"



Sgt. 1st Class James Stone
Platoon Sgt.
103rd Eng. Bn.

"I prefer the new improved PTs because they have the reflective lettering and they are waterproof."



Spc. Lee Ness
Computer operations
HHC 28th Inf. Div.

"I like the old PTs because they are comfortable and fit in my budget."



Staff Sgt. Lori Quimby
Administrative NCO
HHC 28th Inf. Div.

"I definitely prefer the new PTs because they are versatile."



About the covers: Front, Cpt. James Shannon, commander, 788th EOD Co., prepares C-4 explosives to destroy unserviceable ammunition at Kuslat Range. Photo by Spc. Jessica Abner. Back, Tuzla Phil, 28th Inf. Div. mascot, makes his debut appearance at Eagle Base, Bosnia. Illustration by Steve Opet.





Task Force Eagle
Stabilization Force
SFOR XII
Bosnia-Herzegovina



**Brig. Gen.
John T. von Trott**
**Multinational Division
(North)**
Commander

Our first month in Bosnia and Herzegovina was certainly a busy one. From elections to demolition training, from Dynamic Response to civil disturbance training, it is evident that everyone in this multinational division is committed to excellence.

It is hard to believe that the first month of the SFOR XII rotation is behind us. In this short time, we have witnessed and participated in a number of important events in the history of BiH and SFOR.

Immediately following the passing of the guidon to America's oldest division and

Commander's Comments...

first predominantly National Guard and Reserve rotation of U.S. peacekeepers, it was off running.

Task Force Talon participated in the second annual "Dynamic Response" exercise. It was valuable training for our aviators as they were required to communicate and operate in a multinational environment. There should be no question that we are committed to peace in the Balkans.

Then it was the historic BiH elections. Historic because it would be the first time since the end of the war that BiH conducted its own elections. Our job is to continue to contribute to a safe and secure environment and support the local authorities if necessary.

We witnessed the dedication of the first rebuilt White Mosque in the war-torn town of Srebrenica. This was an important step in the healing process for those affected by the atrocities and proved that ethnic diversity can exist in the region.

Local authorities maintained a peaceful environment for both of these important events with-

out the assistance of MND(N), demonstrating that BiH is moving closer to a self-sustaining nation.

We conducted the first joint demolition training with the Republika Srpska Army at Kuslat Range. This was another example of the commitment of the Armed Forces of BiH in providing for their own safe and secure environment.

We launched a toy gun and tolerance campaign throughout MND(N) to teach children the dangers of playing with guns and the importance of treating all people the same, no matter what ethnicity or religion.

We conducted training on civil disturbance, hoping never to have to use this training but prepared to if required.

And in our spare time, we volunteered to visit orphanages and schools to provide mentoring and care to those children who have no one to provide for them.

We are far from done. Our multinational partners from the NordPol Battle Group will begin their Active Harvest at the end of the month. This continues to be a significant event as

demonstrated in the recent explosion of a rocket launcher that seriously injured three children in the Zvornik area. We must make a serious effort in getting as many of the weapons of war out of the hands of children as possible.

At the same time as we are disposing of these weapons of war, we will continue to monitor the UXO clearing process and support the returns process before the winter months come upon us.

Although our role as providers of a safe and secure environment has changed, our importance here has not. We must continue to contribute to the future of this country in whatever way we can within the guidelines of our mandate.

Everyone in this multinational division has proven over the past month that we are capable, committed, and willing to help make the future of BiH a little brighter. There is much work to be done but I am confident that we will move closer to a self-sustaining BiH during our rotation. Keep up the good work and **Roll On!**



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Horace Pysher**
**Multinational Division
(North)**
**Command Sergeant
Major**

CSM speaks about policy, leaders

Following approval by the SFOR XII Commander, Brig. Gen. von Trott, we have made a change in how the reflective belt is to be worn with the two types of physical fitness uniforms — the PFU and the IPFU — while wearing the jacket.

Starting immediately, the new policy is that if a jacket is worn with the PFU or IPFU, the belt will be worn around the bottom of the jacket and be visible. "Visible" is the key word because in my research as to why the 25th Inf. Div. changed it to have the soldiers wear it diagonally across the chest was because soldiers and **LEADERS**,

did not enforce this vary same standard at that time.

During Sunday's Octoberfest I saw three soldiers walking in the IPFU with their jackets on. Two of the three were wearing the belt the proper way; belt visible. The third was not, the jacket was hanging over the belt. When I asked the two who had their belts the right way why they did not correct the third person, I got the, "Oh, I didn't notice," for an answer. How can you not notice someone's reflective belt not being visible?

Enforcement of a seemingly small standard is as important

as enforcing any and all standards. Not enforcing little things means they become big things, which can lead to accidents, injuries, and potentially the loss of life.

This change for wearing the belt with the jacket does not change the requirement to wear it with the other combinations of the PT uniforms, i. e., shorts and pants. The senior leadership of SFOR XII is committed to **SAFETY**, but it takes soldiers at all levels to enforce all standards to maintain a safe environment. Make the on-the-spot correction. The life you save is important to all of us. **Roll On!**

TALON



Top, Runners prepare to bolt from the starting line of the Keystone 5K Fun Run. Middle right, soldiers head down the home stretch to the finish line. Middle left, The Fun Run was for everyone, even Sgt. 1st Class Dan and his handler, military policeman, Staff Sgt. Christopher Ricciardi. Bottom right, Lt. Col. Bert Kozen, Division Chaplain, leaves the rest of the field in his dust. Bottom left, Good soldiers always stay hydrated after physical training. *Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster.*



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Top left, Senior Airman Marcie Mascaro, Tops in Blue performer, shows MND(N) her moves during a show at Peace Keepers Hall, Eagle Base, Bosnia. Top right, Senior Airman James Ellisor III, solos on the skins. Middle right, Master Sgt. Bryan Langerud performs as Jake Blues of the Blues Brothers. Bottom right, Sgt. Maribel Miller, personnel NCO, shows her stuff with Master Sgt. Bryan Langerud. Middle left, Soldiers of Multinational Division (North) cheer Tops in Blue as they close the show with "Proud to be an American." Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster.



Friday, October 18, 2002

EOD and Republika Srpska soldiers have blast improving safety

Story and Photos by
Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant editor, 354th MPAD

ZVORNIK, Bosnia — “Shot one” rings out before the heart-felt shockwave rips through the air, bending the surrounding trees and shrubs as the earth quakes underneath. A gray mushroom-shaped cloud rises and dissipates over a massive smoking hole wide enough to provide cover for a squad of soldiers. The scorched earth is all that remains from the destruction of 60 mm mortars, grenades, C-4, and other explosives, providing a safer community for citizens and soldiers living in the vicinity of Zvornik.

Soldiers of the 788th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team conducted this mission with the VRS Military (Army of the Republika Srpska) at the Kuslat Range to close one of the V Corps’ weapons storage sites that housed outdated and unserviceable ammunition.

The planning process began one month ago when a Joint Military Affairs weapons storage site inspection team used their technical expertise and training to determine the rounds stored in the facility were un-

serviceable. Some of the ammunition was built-up with rust and grenades were bound with just rubber bands to prevent them from exploding. This posed a potentially dangerous situation for anyone living or working near the storage site.

“It’s a hazard and therefore endangers the safe and secure environment,” said Cpt. Guy Smith, V Corps liaison officer, Headquarters, Headquarters Co., 28th Inf. Div. “It is the responsibility of the local military to correct the problem. They came to me with a solution and asked for our assistance.”

The VRS military didn’t have the capabilities to destroy the ammunition alone. The EOD team assisted in the destruction of more than 2,740 rounds of munitions. The VRS welcomed the helping hand in the spirit of safety.

“Americans have the knowledge and experience to get rid of the ammunition safely,” said Sgt. Dokic Zeljko, scout, VRS, V Corps.

The EOD specialists complete an eight to nine month training course at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. They receive training in areas such as demolition procedures, ordnance identification, and how to use tools such as the pocket wrench to disrupt bomb detonation.

Where a handful of explosives can mortally wound a person, aging ammunition can become unstable, posing an even greater threat to the population.

“All ordnance, like just about everything else, has a shelf-life and at a certain point it becomes a safety hazard. You have to decide if you want to continue to use it,” said Cpt. James Shannon, commander, 788th EOD Co. “It’s better to dispose of it when it becomes a safety issue instead of taking chances on having it function as designed.”

The mission helps fulfill the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords in relation to the accountability and destruction of weapons and ammunition.



Staff Sgt. Al Westad, team leader, 788th EOD Co., stretches the detonation cord more than 100 yards away from each pile of munitions.

“When it was brought to my attention, we didn’t have any problem helping SFOR accomplish one of its goals — downsize the amount of ordnance in Bosnia,” said Shannon.

Boxes upon boxes containing the ammunition were laid out on the ground and the American and Serb soldiers worked together, carefully unloading the boxes and arranging the ordnance in six piles. Each pile had a layer of C-4 lining the top. The detonation cord stretched more than 100 yards away from the explosive piles. The destruction of the ammunition was at the fingertips of Pfc. Ken Smith, EOD specialist, 788th EOD Co. Smith pushed the button on the remote control M122 transmitter, that sent electric impulses blowing the explosives up and eliminating the potential hazard.

According to Cpt. Smith the mission ran smoothly. “I think the cooperation between us and the VRS was excellent,” said Smith. “This is a cooperative blast and they were at the site on time with all the resources they said they would have.”

Cooperative efforts such as this demolition mission, builds relationships and confidence between the VRS and the U.S. Army while eliminating potentially threatening hazards in the community.

“These missions are crucial to rebuilding a war-torn region into a prosperous society that doesn’t have ordnance handed to children for them to use incorrectly and end up killing someone,” said Shannon. “It makes me feel good being here. If we’re here, we can get rid of the munitions and make this country safer.”



A Republika Srpska (VRS) soldier carefully arranges 60mm mortars to be destroyed at Kuslat Range.

Carabinieri certifies in crowd control

by Capt. Aldo Scalinci

Italian Carabinieri

On Sept. 28, 2002, members of the Carabinieri officially achieved certification as the Charlie COY (Company) of the Multinational Specialized Unit during an exercise at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

The certification came after the soldiers had trained for more than a month in their native Italy, and an additional two weeks of training in theater here at Eagle Base.

The unit, clearly distinguishable by their trademark blue and red uniforms, performed for Multinational Division (North) Commander, Brig. Gen. John T. von Trott, in the presence of Col. Antonio Colacicco, MSU Regiment commander, and Lt. Col. Fausto Vignola, 1st MSU Battalion commander, and their staffs.

The exercise was a test to certify the capability of MSU troopers to conduct crowd control operations in the event of riots or civil unrest, before being effectively deployed in an actual military operation.

The exercise scenario consisted of a protest against local authorities carried out by 40 "hard-liners." During the uprising, demonstrators captured two local administrators and built barricades in front of the government building. The local police and the local civil authorities had not been able to solve the situation and failed in their negotiations. International Police Task Force called the MSU to intervene.

Prior to the arrival of the MSU, the SFOR military forces operating in the area established a security control zone around the area where the civil disorder had taken place. This is commonly referred to as the "green box." This special procedure was the main topic of a nonlethal weapons and crowd control training exercise conducted



by Zerlini Luciano

A Carabinieri squad prepares to enter a building during certification.

during the past several weeks by two U.S. platoons from the 1st Bn., 104th Cavalry, and 1st Bn., 109th Infantry.

The MSU unit commander was the first to arrive at the "hot" spot. The MSU commander negotiated with the leader of the rioters in an attempt to avoid the physical confrontation between the soldiers and the crowd. After a flat out refusal to disperse, the rioters started throwing objects toward the negotiators and tried to attack the MSU in front of the barricades.

Under the leadership of Capt. Claudio Ruberta, the units reacted to this attack with the assistance of two K-9 teams while the rioters set fire to the barricades.

The MSU immediately took action. The fire was extinguished, part of the barricade was removed, and the crowd was pushed back, creating the necessary condition for

a hostage rescue procedure. The rescue effort was conducted by one unit of the Carabinieri's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, a highly-specialized unit equipped with state of the art combat gear and weapons.

The exercise ended with the intervention of the "green box" to protect the MSU withdrawal and secure the location.

The exercise was conducted with precision, and the Charlie Co. demonstrated an excellent qualification, proving their readiness to operate in the field.

The MSU is a police force with military status that performs police duties including civil unrest control and special operations. Like a military law enforcement force, the MSU operates differently than most military units, mainly because the different missions to be carried out requires mature and experienced personnel capable of handling significant responsibilities without constant oversight.

The MSU, is a perfectly integrated SFOR element. It provides the SFOR commander with a centrally-controlled military unit specialized in the field of public security. The MSU increases SFOR's ability to respond to potential hot spots to protect displaced persons and refugees and elected officials, and deters civil disorder.

MSU units conduct routine familiarization and recon activities in all three Multinational Division areas of responsibility to acquire the essential background information for an eventual successful deployment on pre-planned or quick reaction force operations.

At the end of the exercise, Brig. Gen. Von Trott and his staff greeted all involved personnel and Col. Colacicco, expressing appreciation for their performance.



by Zerlini Luciano

Carabinieri soldiers march should-to-shoulder to push back protestors.

Guzla Phin



has arrived... and he ain't
lookin' for no shadow!